

Message Text

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SUBJECT: GERMAN BICENTENNIAL COORDINATION MEETING

BEGIN SUMMARY: ABOUT 80 GERMAN PLANNERS AND ORGANIZERS FOR THE U.S. BICENTENNIAL MET IN A LARGE CONFERENCE IN BONN TO PROVIDE OVERVIEW AND COORDINATION FOR THE MYRIAD EVENTS INVOLVED. THE NUMBER OF EVENTS CONTINUES TO INCREASE. END SUMMARY.

1. THE SECOND AND MAIN MEETING OF PRINCIPAL GERMAN PLANNERS (ABOUT 80) FOR OBSERVANCE OF THE U.S. BICENTENNIAL WAS HELD IN BONN FEBRUARY 17. REPRESENTED, AT HIGH LEVEL, WERE THE OFFICES OF THE PRESIDENT AND THE CHANCELLOR; THE PARLIAMENT; FIVE MINISTRIES; THE TEN LAENDER AND BERLIN; AND ABOUT 20 MAJOR FOUNDATIONS AND ORGANIZATIONS, INCLUDING THE TRADE UNION ASSOCIATION (DGB), EMPLOYER'S ASSOCIATION (DAV) THE CONFERENCE OF GERMAN CITIES, ETC. THE MISSION WAS REPRESENTED BY THE CPAO AND CAO.

2. THE MEETING PROVIDED AN OVERVIEW OF THE ACTIVITIES PLANNED BY THE FRG, THE LAENDER AND THE ORGANIZATIONS, MOST OF WHICH HAD PROVIDED ADVANCE REPORTS. EVEN SO, MANY OTHER EVENTS SURFACED WHICH WERE NEW. FOR EXAMPLE, THE DGB REPORTED THAT IT WAS WORKING ON FIVE OR MORE
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MAJOR PROJECTS WITH THE AFL/CIO AND UAW, WHICH WAS NEWS TO EVERYONE ELSE. THIS TELEGRAM WILL BE FOLLOWED BY A

POUCH MESSAGE WHICH WILL ATTEMPT TO RECAPITULATE THE KNOWN MAJOR GERMAN PROJECTS TO BE UNDERTAKEN IN THE U.S. AND THE FRG. THE CPAO REPORTED THAT THE MISSION IS INVOLVED IN AROUND 400 PROJECTS (THIS EXCLUDES A LARGE NUMBER AND VARIETY OF OTHER BICENTENNIAL ACTIVITY, MAINLY IN THE MEDIA SUPPORT AREA). THE U.S. ARMED FORCES IN GERMANY IN COORDINATION WITH THE MISSION HAVE WORKED OUT MASTER PLANS. THE ARMY ALONE WILL BE INVOLVED IN OVER 800 EVENTS. FURTHER, THERE WILL BE VERY MANY EVENTS SPONSORED BY PRIVATE AMERICAN GROUPS (WOMEN'S CLUBS, SCOUTS, SCHOOL GROUPS, ETC.) WHICH LIKE THOSE UNDERTAKEN BY THE ARMED FORCES WILL INVOLVE GERMANS.

3. WE HAVE GATHERED THAT THE PLANS OF THE GERMAN-AMERICAN CLUBS IN THE FRG ARE MOVING ALONG, AND THE NUMBER OF THOSE EVENTS WILL BE LEGION. THE MISSION IS ALSO FACED WITH A DEVELOPING FLOOD OF REQUESTS FROM DEPARTMENT STORES AND OTHER COMMERCIAL ENTERPRISES WHICH PLAN TO HAVE AN "AMERICAN WEEK."

4. AT THE END OF THE MEETING A FOREIGN OFFICE OFFICIAL OBSERVED THAT WHEN HE FIRST HEARD THE 3,000 FIGURE (OF PLANNED BICENTENNIAL EVENTS) IT SEEMED LIKE A "TEXAS ESTIMATE," BUT NOW IT LOOKS LIKE IT WILL BE CLOSER TO 4,000. AN INDICATION, ANOTHER OFFICIAL THOUGHT, OF HOW STRONG THE GERMAN-AMERICAN RELATIONSHIP IS. THIS POST MIGHT OBSERVE THAT IT ALSO IS AN INDICATION OF THE RATHER FANTASTIC WORKLOAD IT HAS IN 1976 AND THE PRESSURES FACING IT.
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